

February 21, 2012 Water Supply Forecast Discussion

The February 21, 2012 forecast is posted: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up>. The forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of February 21, 2012.

Forecast Summary:

Considering the rivers referred to in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 34 percent on the Yuba River to 66 percent on the Inflow to Lake Shasta. All forecasts decreased because of below median precipitation and snow accumulation. Statewide, the median forecast decreased about 4 percent since the February 14 forecast.

Runoff:

Unimpaired flows for the month of February continue to be well below average for all major Central Valley Rivers. February unimpaired flow ranges from 8 percent on the Cosumnes River to 58 percent on the Kern River at Isabella. The rest of the rivers forecasted in this update have been flowing between 18 percent (Merced River) and 35 percent (Kings and Kaweah rivers) of average for the first three weeks of February.

Precipitation:

During the first 23 days of February, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index gained 1.4 inches of precipitation which is 18 percent of the February average. The seasonal total through February 23 is 16.0 inches which is 48 percent of average-to-date and 32 percent of an average water year.

Through the first 23 days of February, the San Joaquin 5-Station Index gained 1.5 inches which is 22 percent of the February average. The seasonal total is 11.6 inches, which is 45 percent of average-to-date and 28 percent of an average water year.

Snowpack:

According to snow sensor data for the morning of February 23, statewide snowpack remains at 7 inches (30 percent of the February 23 average) compared to a week ago. Regionally, the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra snowpack are 33, 28, and 33 percent of their respective averages for the date.

Weather and Climate Outlook:

The CNRFC 6-day QPF and Freezing Level Forecast, issued this morning, indicates that negligible precipitation is expected in California except for the North Coast over the next six days. Currently, the freezing levels over the Sierra Nevada range from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, but these levels are expected to drop significantly to be between the 3,500 and 4,500 foot elevations on Monday.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) outlook for March, updated February 16, suggests below normal temperatures for the northern two-thirds of California. The same outlook calls for increased chances of below normal precipitation for the southern three-quarters of the state.

The CPC's three month outlook (March through May), also updated February 16, suggests increased chances of below normal temperatures for the North Coast and Trinity Alps and above normal temperatures in the desert regions of southern California. For precipitation, this same outlook calls for increased chances of below normal precipitation for extreme southern

California and equal chances of above and below normal precipitation for the remainder of the state.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 forecast for conditions on March 1, 2012 will be available March 8, 2012 along with the March 1, 2012 Water Supply Index (WSI) forecast. As always, you may contact us if you need assistance before the posting of the March 1 forecast.

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Important Links:

Bulletin 120 Email Subscription Information

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the B120 notification email
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/b120>.

Water Supply Index (WSI) Email Subscription Information

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the WSI notification email
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/WSI>

Full Natural Flow Data:

Daily FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT

Precipitation Data:

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=8SI&d=today>

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=5SI&d=today>

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf

2010 WY Precipitation Summary

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/precip/PRECIPSUM>

Snow Data:

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalents

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Monthly Snow Course Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

Extended Regional Forecasts:

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>

Drought Information:

California Drought Information

<http://www.water.ca.gov/drought/>

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html